



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Jury Finds Columbia Heights Cousins Guilty of Murder, Conspiracy and Obstructing Justice in Connection With the December 9, 2005 Murders of Anthony Blount and Joshua Gregory and the Related Wounding of Three Other Men**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Azariah Israel and his cousin, Emanuel Jenkins, were found guilty on June 11, 2010, by a jury in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, of Conspiracy and Obstruction of Justice for attempting to silence witnesses to a violent assault on December 9, 2005, in Columbia Heights Village, which left two men dead and three surviving wounded victims. The jury also found Azariah Israel guilty of two counts of First Degree Premeditated Murder While Armed and three counts of Assault With Intent To Kill While armed, along with related weapons offenses, for his roles in the assault. The Honorable Michael L. Rankin presided over the trial.

Israel, who uses the nickname "Head" and Jenkins, who uses the nickname "E," terrorized the Clifton Street neighborhood of Washington, D.C. for many years. On December 9, 2005, Israel opened fire in the 1300 block of Columbia road, N.W., killing Anthony Blount and Joshua Gregory, and wounding Cortez Blount, Kabie Secka, and Noah Savage. Thereafter, Israel and Jenkins attempted to silence witnesses of the assault. In particular, the defendants targeted one witness after determining that he had witnessed the December 9 shooting by Israel and was cooperating with law enforcement. Several of the witnesses who testified against Israel and Jenkins at trial were understandably terrified.

Israel is already serving a sentence of over 64 years for his role in the January 27, 2006 robbery of a 7-11 store at 14<sup>th</sup> and Columbia Road, N.W., and the shooting of an employee during that robbery. Israel is also serving a sentence of 53 years for his role in yet another Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice by silencing witnesses and the October 10, 2004 murder of Pierre Johnson, another witness, at 14<sup>th</sup> and W Street, N.W.

In announcing the verdict, U.S. Attorney Machen stated commended Metropolitan Police Department Cold Case/Major Case Detectives Mitchell Credle, Darryl Richmond and Jeffrey Owens, as well as Officer Luciano Morales of the Firearms Unit. He also praised the work of U.S. Attorney Office employees Leif Hickling of the Litigation Support Services Unit, Paralegal

Alesha Matthews-Yette, Intelligence Analyst Larry Grasso, and and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Denise Cheung and Laura Bach who were involved in the investigation and presentation of evidence during the early phases of the case. Finally, Mr. Machen commended Assistant U.S. Attorneys Deborah Sines and Jennifer Kerkhoff, who tried this case.